

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
JULY 1, 2011 through SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/03/11 6pm : 30

Heartless thieves stole two wheelchairs belonging to Desiree Sanchez, a disabled Springfield woman. But thanks to Springfield Police Officers, the wheelchairs were located within an hour after they were stolen. 22 year old Desiree Sanchez once again sits on the porch of her Wilbraham road home in peace. Her mother, Elizabeth Perez told 22News, she can't believe that anyone would steal her daughter's wheelchairs.

News 07/04/11 6pm : 30

Springfield Police are investigating the murder of a Springfield man. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, that Raul Vera died after a gunshot wound to the neck. Sergeant Delaney said Vera was found just after 7p.m. Sunday evening near 66 Lincoln Street. Police are looking for a silver Dodge Neon in the case. Sergeant Delaney said three Hispanic men were believed to have been in that car. Sergeant Delaney told 22News, that Raul Vera had a lengthy police record and was released from prison three months ago; he also had ties to a gang in Springfield.

News 07/04/11 6am : 30

Police in Springfield arrested 23-year-old Shanice Smithers for attempted murder after she allegedly went into the house of her baby's father and then stabbed him and his girlfriend. Smithers reportedly left her toddler son in the car during the attack on Pendleton Street, according to Lieutenant Cheryl Claprood. After the alleged stabbing, Smithers rushed back to her house on Porter Street. When police arrived, she told them someone tried to shoot her. But investigators determined that wasn't true. The two victims are recovering at Baystate; they are expected to be okay.

News 07/05/11 6pm : 30

A teenager was shot by Palmer police during a domestic disturbance call. Palmer Police Chief Robert Frydryk told 22News, that police were called to 22 Pinney Street just before 11p.m. last night. According to Frydryk, a 17-year-old boy was on the lawn, pointed a gun at police and refused to drop it. After a 20-minute standoff, the suspect threatened to shoot an officer. That officer then fired two shots at the young man. The teenager was taken to UMass Medical Center in Worcester.

News 07/05/11 11pm : 30

Springfield police recovered nearly \$9,000 of stolen cash, and arrested a Longhill Street man after a gas station robbery today. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney said the victim told them a man with a gun forced her to open the cash register early today at the East Columbus Ave. Sunoco. While on the way to the gas station, officers saw a man who matched the suspect's description. They chased him and said they saw a silver handgun, and he tossed a bag filled with cash. Police later arrested 26 year old Julio Viruet of 69 Longhill Street, and charged him with armed robbery. Viruet is scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday in Springfield District Court.

News **07/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

James Whitey Bulger was arraigned in federal District court today, and indicted in 19 murders. Whitey Bulger was quiet and seemed almost meek when he pleads "not guilty" to a racketeering indictment that links him to his alleged role in 19 murders. Old age seemed to catch up with Whitey Bulger as he softly plead "not guilty" to a 32 count indictment that accuses him of extortion, conspiracy, possession of machine guns, and his alleged role in 19 murders. Bulger was arraigned before U.S Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler, who asked Bulger's taxpayer-funded attorney J.W. Carney Jr. whether his client understood the charges against him. The reply was "yes". Carney remarked that the average murder trial takes one month and that since Bulger is accused of participating in 19 murders, this would be a long trial. If convicted of murder, Bulger faces life in prison. Bulger is next scheduled to appear for a pretrial conference on September 14th.

News **07/06/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Springfield fire officials are also investigating a possible arson in a vacant home in the city's South End. Leger told 22News firefighters were called to 67 Marble Street around 8:40 last night. Leger said the fire was on the second floor interior porch. No word yet on how the fire started.

News **07/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are investigating a shooting near the X. Springfield police Lt. John Bobianski told 22News that investigating officers said the victim was a man who "had been shot in the head." According to Lt. Bobianski, the victim either fell out of a car or had been thrown from a vehicle on 79 Washington Street just before 4:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon. 22News will have the latest information on air and online at WWLP.com.

News **07/07/11** **12pm** **: 30**

One of the most successful high school wrestling coaches in Massachusetts has been indicted on child pornography charges. A grand jury indicted 60-year old David Castricone on two counts of illegal possession of child pornography. Castricone was arrested in February one week after he was spotted in the North Andover High School girl's locker room by a female student. Police searching his home allegedly found child pornography.

Castricone was a wrestling coach for 38 years in Massachusetts the last 25 years he coached at North Andover High School before he resigned.

News **07/08/11** **6am** **: 30**

A 16-year-old boy is still alive this morning after he was shot in the face and chest yesterday evening. A 16-year-old boy was gunned down while he was sitting inside his car on Washington Street. Springfield Police say he was shot 3 times, once in the face, chest and arm, and then fell out of his car while it was moving. He is still listed in serious condition, after undergoing hours of surgery yesterday at Bay State Medical Center. Police believe the teen either fell out of the car or jumped out after he was shot. Then they believe his silver Honda coasted up the road before hitting a parked car. Police are still searching for suspects. If you have any information, please call Springfield Police.

News **07/09/11** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are investigating a murder in the Forest Park neighborhood this morning where an 18-year-old was shot and killed around 1:30 this morning. It happened during a house party. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22News an 18-year-old was shot multiple times and killed. Police rounded up 10-15 people from the party and took them to the police department for questioning. Police told 22News the gunman or gunmen fired 12-14 shots and did hit the victim more than once. No arrests have been made. The victim's name hasn't been released.

News **07/11/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A 16-year-old Springfield boy has died after getting shot on Thursday. Tyrel Wheeler died yesterday at Baystate Medical Center. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, Wheeler was shot in the face; chest and arm Thursday afternoon and eventually fell out of a moving car on Washington Street. Detectives are saying Wheeler had ties to a gang.

News **07/11/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police say they arrested a man, attempting to break into a business while wearing a lampshade on his head. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News 48-year old Phillip Constantino of Ludlow was caught trying to break in to the Quality Tree and Fence Company on Verge Street around 12:30 this morning. Sgt. Delaney says Constantino ran away after he was spotted trying to cut through the fence. But it wasn't difficult for police to find him; they found him not far from the business still wearing the lampshade.

News **07/13/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts State Police issued the AMBER ALERT this afternoon. Police are looking for Matthew Slocum. Slocum is a suspect in a triple fatality in Eagle Bridge, New York. One of those victims was Slocum's mother. Slocum is traveling with his girlfriend Loretta Colegrove and their 4 month old baby boy. They were last seen in Adams, Massachusetts at 5 this

morning. Slocum may be holding his girlfriend and their child against their will and may be armed. He is between 5'11" and 6 feet tall and is believed to have swastika tattoos on his forearms. Police are looking for a black 2003 ford Mustang, with two doors, with New York plates DED1769. A possible sighting of the car was reported in Gilsum, New Hampshire, which is east of Route 91 and North of Keene, New Hampshire.

News **07/13/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Soda bottle bombs have been popping up all across Springfield this summer. A state trooper found two soda bottle bombs on Lowell Street in Springfield around 10 o'clock last night. One went off and sprayed the trooper; he is expected to be okay. Plastic bottles can be found on the street just about anywhere, but these bottle bombs are explosive. Springfield fire department spokesman Dennis Leger explains what these bottle bombs look like.

News **07/13/11** **5pm** **: 30**

A man who Springfield police said was trying to break up an argument is fighting for his life. Springfield Police sergeant John Delaney said Guy Wilson of Springfield allegedly punched Paul Bagge (baggy) in the head outside Wilson's East Street home. Sgt. Delaney said Bagge was trying to calm Wilson down as he argued with a woman who was picking up a lost dog. Wilson has been charged with assault and battery causing serious bodily harm. Bagge is in critical condition at Baystate Medical Center.

News **07/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Agawam Fire Department and the Springfield Arson and Bomb Squad were called to investigate a suspicious suitcase left outside a shopping center today. Springfield Fire Department Spokesman Dennis Leger told 22News that the suitcase was found in the parking lot outside the Rocky's, Rite Aid, Friendly's Plaza on Springfield Street in Agawam. The Arson and Bomb Squad x-rayed the suitcase. After x-raying the suitcase, they then put it inside one of their trucks. There is no word yet on what was inside the suitcase. Firefighters had left by mid-afternoon, and businesses in the plaza have re-opened. The matter has been turned over to the Agawam Police.

News **07/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A man who Springfield police said was trying to break-up an argument has died from his injuries that's according to Baystate Medical Center spokesperson, Keith O'Connor. Sergeant John Delaney said Guy Wilson of Springfield allegedly punched Paul Bagge in the head outside Wilson's East Street home. Sergeant Delaney said Bagge was trying to calm Wilson down as he argued with a woman who was picking up a lost dog. Sergeant Delaney said Guy Wilson will be charged with murder.

News **07/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Hampden County District Attorney's office is investigating the death of Doris Alzak as a homicide. Alzak was found dead in her home at Phillips Avenue in Springfield on Tuesday. The Springfield Fire Department was called to her home for a fire, that's when her body was found. If you have any information about her death, please call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355.

News **07/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke police are looking for the suspect who allegedly burned a woman on Friday, by throwing an unknown liquid in her face. The attack happened on Berkshire Street in Holyoke, near the railroad tracks as the woman was walking her dog. Holyoke Police Captain Arthur Monfette told 22News, the 35-year-old victim was released from the hospital over the weekend. She suffered severe burns to her face and eye and she may have permanent vision problems. In May, a similar crime happened on High Street, when a Holyoke man had a chemical thrown in his face.

News **07/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have a suspect in custody in an early morning machete attack. Springfield police Lt. John Slepchuk told 22News that police arrested Dennis Maddox at the river inn motel on State Street. The victim was wounded while trying to help a woman who was being attacked during a home invasion. That man is listed in serious condition at Baystate Medical Center. 42 year-old Dennis Maddox of Springfield was charged with home invasion, indecent assault and battery on a person over 14 and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

News **07/24/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A man smashed a car into the carry out window at Friendly's. Holyoke police Lieutenant Michael Higgins told 22News Haywood Baker caused this accident on Northampton Street in Holyoke. The 27 year old from Holyoke has been charged with operating under the influence of drugs, leaving after the accident and driving to endanger. Lt. Higgins says it was lucky that no one was in the carry out window when this happened. Chicopee's Patrick Dumas told 22News there are usually a lot of people waiting in line where this car eventually stopped.

News **07/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

High bail for a former Holyoke Police Officer accused of selling cocaine. Hampden County District Attorney Mark Mastroianni told 22News that Barkyoub was ordered held on three quarters of a million dollars bail today in Springfield District Court. Barkyoub is charged with trafficking several ounces of cocaine near a school zone. The DA says he expects to bring more charges to the attention of a Grand Jury.

News **07/25/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A man accused of stealing some high tech equipment, was apparently foiled by a low tech get-a-way. 50 year old Phillip Parrott is accused of breaking into the Radio Shack on Liberty Street in Springfield and trying to make his get-away on a bicycle. Delaney said police were checking an alarm that went off at the store around 1:30a.m. This morning when they discovered Parrott quickly peddling away. Delaney said when police approached him he dropped a bag full of items allegedly taken from Radio Shack, including a police scanner and digital copier. Parrott faces several charges including breaking and entering.

News **07/28/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Federal authorities' say they've arrested a man from Hampden Connecticut wanted in connection with a murder they believe happened in Springfield. The U.S. Marshals Service Fugitive Task Force says officers took 39 year old Demery Williams into custody Wednesday in the New Haven area. He was charged as a fugitive from justice. The body of 36-year-old William Jones was found in an abandoned car in January 2010. Williams is expected to be extradited to Springfield to face charges.

News **07/29/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested three men for allegedly stealing aluminum siding off a tornado-damaged house. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News Luis Colomba, Luis Perez and German Canales Romano were arrested around 5:30 yesterday evening. Sgt. Delaney says police saw the suspects stripping the siding off a house on William Street. He said that one of the suspects told police he thought that because the house was abandoned they could just take what they wanted.

News **07/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

It was supposed to be a fun filled concert, featuring Tim McGraw in Mansfield. But a violent fight left Michael Skehill, 19 of Westwood in the hospital. According to police, six men in their 20's nearly killed Skehill following an argument over a girl. Those six men have been charged with aggravated assault. Police allege they were drinking. As for the beating victim, he's still in serious condition but he's expected to get better.

News **07/30/11** **9am** **: 30**

One suspect is in custody after two men were shot in Springfield, but police are searching for a second suspect. Springfield Police Sgt. Julio Toledo told 22News the shooting happened on Liberty Street just before ten last night. One victim was shot in the leg and the other victim was shot in the back. Both are at Baystate Medical Center recovering and are expected to be okay. Police searched the area, and found a handgun that was tossed. Police are now looking for a second suspect. If you have any information please call the Springfield Detective Bureau at 787-6355 or Text-a-tip.

News **07/31/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A car thief has possibly taken food out of the mouths of hungry people by making off with the food delivery van used by the Belchertown helping hands food pantry. Meghan Lynn Allen of Belchertown notified 22News about this theft. She sent us a picture of a 1995 Tan Ford Winstar. It's a lot like the van that was stolen on Saturday from in front of the Church at the town green. Belchertown Police are now looking for the van. She told us the food pantry depends on this van to transport food from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts to needy families.

News **07/31/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The weekend is already off to a violent start; two men were shot last night on Liberty Street in Springfield. Here's what we know. One suspect's been taken into custody and now Detectives are looking for a second man allegedly involved in the crime. Springfield Police Sgt. Julio Toledo told 22News one of the victims was shot in the back, the other man has a bullet wound in his leg. Both wounded men were taken to Baystate Medical center, where Sgt. Toledo said "neither man is in any danger of dying." Police officers have found the gun reportedly used in the shootings. And they say someone may have tried to get rid of the weapon before they found it.

News **08/01/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are looking for two men involved in a home invasion in the Liberty Heights neighborhood. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that police are searching for two armed and masked men who fled the home after stealing an SUV this morning. Police received a call just before 7:00 from a man who escaped from the house and made it to a neighbor's while another resident was held inside. Police said they are looking for two Hispanic males, one of them has a tear drop tattoo near his one of his eyes. No one was injured.

News **08/01/11** **5pm** **: 30**

One person was taken to the hospital following a stabbing in Springfield. It happened near Dwight Street Extension around 3:00 this afternoon. Springfield police Lt. Alberto Ayala told 22news the victim suffered non-life threatening injuries. Police are searching for a suspect.

News **08/01/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Two men were shot tonight and one possible suspect is in custody. Springfield Police Sgt. Julio Toledo told 22News the shooting happened here on Liberty Street just before 10:00 tonight, a little over an hour ago. Two men were shot, and one was taken to Baystate Medical Center, the other to Mercy Medical in private vehicles. Police fanned out across the area, and found a handgun that was tossed. Springfield Police Sgt. David Martin told 22News one man is being detained but it hasn't been determined whether he's one of the men involved in the shooting. Another suspect is still on the loose. No word yet on the extent or seriousness of the victims' wounds.

News **08/03/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

Easthampton Police busted an elaborate pot growing operation. Detective Robert Alberti told 22News 38-year-old Gregory Krazanowski has been charged. Nine pounds of pot were discovered at his home in Southampton. And 97 marijuana plants were found at another location in Easthampton. The street value of all that pot was \$150,000. He faces a list of drug charges.

News **08/04/11** **5pm** **: 30**

26 year old Rush Blankenship of Westfield is among those who have been indicted after a federal investigation into a worldwide child porn website. Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano announced Wednesday the arrest of 72 people for their participation in the website called Dreamboard. The website was a private, members-only entity that required members to uplink child porn to join and remain a member. Cori Bassett from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Public Affairs told 22News that Blankenship faces several charges including conspiracy to distribute child pornography.

News **08/05/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A Springfield man with \$1,000 dollars in his pocket was allegedly stabbed and robbed by two men with a machete just before midnight on Calhoun Street in Springfield's North End. According to Springfield Police department spokesman Sgt. John Delaney, it wasn't long before police arrested two men with a machete who were driving in a bright neon yellow Dodge car. 28 year old Roblero Perez of 2517 Main Street was charged with armed robbery, and so was 24 year old Alejandro Reyes, who doesn't have a known address in Springfield. The victim of the alleged machete attack was apparently lucky. He was treated at the Baystate Medical center's emergency room and was sent home.

News **08/06/11** **9am** **: 30**

Police are cracking down on illegal street racing. Springfield police and state police are teaming up to track down cars with violations. Lt. John Slepchuck told 22news from midnight to 3:00a.m. this morning they were pulling over cars on Liberty Street in Springfield. Police made three arrests, recovered one stolen engine and handed out 30 citations. Lt. Slepchuck says they will continue check engines every weekend.

News **08/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Residents in the 16 acres neighborhood are terrified after waking up this weekend to find their cars were broken into. Residents on Mohawk Drive in Springfield are on high alert. In the early hours of Saturday morning Dennis Nelson says dozens of cars were broken into, quickly and silently. I opened the door and lights turn on and you can see the whole inside was just all trashed, they rummaged through everything, they didn't take anything but they went through the vehicle. But not everyone was so lucky. Nobody heard anything that was,

and one of the neighbors was sleeping on her couch and she didn't hear anything, and they were very quiet, very professional because they were in and out of the cars in no time and the cars were locked. It's distressing to know that while we're sleeping at 3:00 in the morning, people are breaking into the vehicles, 60 to 75 cars. These neighbors say they are a tight knit community who look out for each other. And are on the lookout for the person or people who invaded their personal property. And they want to warn others to be cautious they say if you have a garage, that's your best bet to protect your belongings.

News **08/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A grim story of domestic violence allegations in Holyoke allegedly involving 29 year old Oscar Lopez Rosa, his girlfriend, their children, and the children's grand father. According to Holyoke Police Lt. Michael Higgins, Rosa's been charged with three counts of domestic assault and battery and reckless endangerment of children. Lt. Higgins told 22News, Rosa reportedly started beating and choking the couple's 4 year old daughter at their apartment at 131 Sargent Street and pulled out a knife and a rifle. At that point, says Higgins, the mother, one of her children, and the grandfather went to Police headquarters. Officers later arrested Rosa at the Sargent Street apartment.

News **08/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An outdoor wedding reception turned into a horror story early this morning in the Franklin County town of Sunderland. Sunderland Police Chief Jeffrey Gilbert told 22News, that around midnight four people were stabbed at an apartment complex at 39 Old Amherst Road. He also said Police were looking for a 28 year old man named Ian Woishnis, who according to Chief Gilbert could be armed and dangerous.

News **08/07/11** **9am** **: 30**

Half a dozen people were arrested overnight at the sobriety checkpoint in Holyoke. State Police Lt. John Hackett told 22News, six drivers were charged with driving under the influence on Route 5. They say traffic was steady. Lt. Healy says the program has been successful and he wants drivers to stay safe by getting a designated driver.

News **08/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A suspect wanted for stabbing four people in Sunderland at a post-wedding reception party this weekend has turned himself in. Ian Woishnis turned himself in at the Sunderland police department at midnight. Police chief Jeffrey Gilbert told 22news that four people were stabbed at an apartment complex on Old Amherst road Saturday night. All of them will be ok. Woishnis was arraigned this morning on four counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Bail was set at \$1,000 dollars. Woishnis is due back in Court September 7th.

News **08/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

More than 14 grams of cocaine were found inside a car's fuse box during a traffic stop in Springfield. According to a Springfield Police news release 25 year old Wilfredo Rivera of Springfield was arrested on drug, motor vehicle and weapons charges in connection with that traffic stop. Springfield Police Cadet Melissa Rodriguez told 22News Rivera was initially stopped on Main Street early Sunday morning after police noticed he had an expired inspection sticker.

News **08/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police charged two men with breaking into cars in East Springfield. 18 year old Justin Alvarez and 19 year old Julio Galarza were arrested this morning. Police Captain Cheryl Claprod said the pair is accused of break-ins here in the area of Anniversary Street, Bowles Park and Woodstock Street. An alert resident called police. Neighbors told 22News they have been vigilant after a few home break-ins in the area.

News **08/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

One man is dead after being stabbed in Holyoke this morning. The stabbing happened just before nine near 164 Sargent Street. Police found the victim in between a car and a pickup truck in front of the Hampshire Pine apartment complex. Police have not released the victim's name and they say they do have a suspect.

News **08/08/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A robber in Chicopee has been caught on camera while a stealing a bike. The man enters the house's front porch and searches for an item to steal, he ends up finding a bike and he takes it with him as he leaves. This all happened yesterday around 5:40 at 15 Mass. Avenue in Chicopee. Stephanie Tardif who lives at this house told 22News she's very happy this incident was caught on camera. She sent it to us to let people know that there is a thief in the neighborhood. Chicopee Police told us they are investigating this robbery but the video is a major lead.

News **08/09/11** **6am** **: 30**

A man was stabbed to death yesterday in Holyoke, making this the third murder this year. Holyoke police say they received a call about a man being stabbed yesterday morning. They came out to this apartment complex on Sargent Street and found a man who was stabbed several times near this home. He was lying in between a car and a pick-up truck. Sergeant Matthew Moriarty says he was rushed to the hospital and later died from his injuries. Police confirmed that 24-year-old Miguel Rodriguez is the city's 3rd murder victim this year. No arrests have been made at this time. But police are trying to track down a 'person of interest'. They're looking for a man wearing jean shorts and a black shirt. The suspect has puffy hair. If you have any information, please contact Holyoke's police department.

News **08/10/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Northampton Police are still looking for answers in a violent home invasion on North Street. It all reportedly happened at 1:00 this morning. That's when an intruder entered the home at 42 North Street and stole money and hurt the woman who lived there. According to Northampton Police Detective Corey Robinson, the woman who lived at the house was taken to Cooley Dickinson Hospital and is expected to recover from her injuries but residents who live in this area told us they're shocked this happened in their neighborhood.

News **08/10/11** **6am** **: 30**

Holyoke Police have charged a man with the city's third murder this year, and he will appear in court in a just a few hours. In just a few hours, 19-year-old Joshua Reyes will be arraigned here at Holyoke's District Court. On Monday, he allegedly stabbed a man to death outside an apartment complex on Sargent Street. Holyoke Police say Reyes lived in that apartment complex, and was arrested there last night. Police found 24-year-old Manuel Rodriguez's body lying on the street in between a car and a pick-up truck. Lieutenant Matthew Moriarty told 22News he was stabbed several times once to the face. Friends of Rodriguez created a memorial near where he was killed. They told 22News they're grieving, and they want more patrols in the neighborhood where the crime happened. Reyes was held without bail last night. His arraignment should begin later today.

News **08/11/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Indictments, months after an excavator hit a sewage pipe spilling hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage in Agawam. Now, the city's mayor and residents are hoping to get back the money spent on cleanup. It's been a mystery to Agawam residents for months, in March, an abandoned excavator was found in protected wetlands stuck in the mud and sinking. It had hit a sewage line and hundreds of thousands of gallons of raw sewage was spilling into the Westfield River and the wetlands in the meadows section of the city. Thursday, a three count indictment named John O'Malley, the owner of Extreme Paintball on Main Street. Hampden County District Attorney Mark Mastroianni told 22News O'Malley was allegedly trying to prevent water runoff from coming onto the paintball fields when he hit the sewage line. Mayor Richard Cohen said the process to bring O'Malley to court may have taken a long time but in the end he hopes the city will be able to re-coup the money it spent on clean-up and repairs. O'Malley doesn't own the property he was allegedly working on. He faces charges of violating the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Clean Water Act and damaging personal property of the town of Agawam.

News **08/11/11** **5pm** **: 30**

An Amherst teenager is being held without bail after being arraigned in a violent burglary in which a woman suffered facial fractures. Northampton Police detective Corey Robinson told 22News that 18 year old Yazziel Rivera was arraigned in Northampton District Court today on several charges including burglary and threatening murder. Rivera is accused of pulling an air conditioner from a North Street home early yesterday, and assaulting the 62 year old woman who lives there. Rivera was ordered held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing on Tuesday.

News **08/12/11** **6am** **: 30**

Police in Springfield arrested a 16-year-old for allegedly setting a business on fire. Fire Spokesman Dennis Leger told 22News that El Fogon Market & Restaurant on Chestnut Street was reportedly set on fire around 11:00 last night. Only the store sign and a series of storage racks, left outside, were damaged. The inside of the business was not damaged by the fire. It's unclear whether the restaurant will re-open this morning.

News **08/12/11** **6am** **: 30**

Two people are recovering in the hospital this morning, after they were both hit by a car in Springfield. Captain Cheryl Claprod told 22news that a woman in her late twenties told police she got into an argument outside the Tavern Inn on East Columbus Ave. and claims that shots were fired at her. Police say she allegedly hit two people with her car, while fleeing. Captain Claprod said their shot-spotter didn't go off and no bullets were found in the area. No charges have been filed at this time. The victims are expected to be okay.

News **08/14/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Northampton saw a spike in vandalism this weekend. There were three incidents of vandalism, two were connected and one was a separate incident. The first incident happened early Friday morning around 3:00a.m. when an officer saw a female spray painting the back side of the T.D. Bank North building on Main Street. Captain Scott Savino of the Northampton Police Department told 22News that they have charged a 19 year old girl from Newton with vandalism and they've link her to another incident of graffiti on Kirkland Avenue over the weekend. Then, on Saturday morning around 7:00a.m., a fire extinguisher was thrown into the window at the Stop & Shop gas station on King Street. The vandal or vandals also knocked over gas pump nozzles and a trash can. Police say this is separate from the previous graffiti case and they are looking into whether there was surveillance video. People we talked to about these incidents say they're surprised this happened here in Northampton.

News **08/16/11** **12pm** **: 30**

A man convicted of killing a young mother in Springfield two years ago was sentenced to life in prison. Daniel Horne, who was found guilty of second degree murder yesterday for firing a rifle into his neighbor's front window on Wilmont Street, hitting and killing 18-year old Brittany Perez back in the fall of 2009, was given a life sentence this morning in Hampden County Superior Court. Brittany Perez's parents spoke before Horne's sentencing. Horne also received a 3-5 year sentence on another charge.

News **08/19/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield police arrested four burglary suspects after a 13-year old girl called 911 while hiding in her bedroom. Springfield Police Cadet Melissa Rodriguez told 22News the girl told a dispatcher she could hear someone in her house. While Police were at the house, patrol

officers a few blocks away spotted four men in a car who matched the description the girl had provided. Police arrested 21-year-old Anthony Wright, 19-year-old Alexander Langford, and 23-year-old Patrick Hourihan, all from east Longmeadow, and 19-year old Anthony Tyler of Springfield. The arresting officers said their shoes matched footprints in the victim's yard. They've been charged with breaking and entering.

News **08/23/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police arrested two suspects after a stabbing tonight. Springfield Police Lt. John Bobianski told 22News police were called to the corner of White and Orange Streets around 8:30 tonight after a large fight started in the street. When police got there, one person had a single stab wound to his back. The victim was rushed to the hospital where he is in stable condition tonight. The two suspects were taken into custody immediately following the fight.

News **08/24/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating the city's 14th murder of the year. Springfield Police officer Rick Rodriguez told 22News that 25 year old Jonathan Tallaj of Springfield died last night after he was shot. The shooting happened at 77 Wilmont Street just before 11pm. So far no arrests have been made. If you have any information you are asked to call the Springfield Police Department Detective Bureau at: (413) 787-6325 or you can Text-A-Tip.

News **08/24/11** **6am** **: 30**

There was a robbery early this morning in Chicopee at the BJ's Wholesale Club on Memorial Ave. It happened around 1:00 this morning. The State police were called-in with K-9 units to help assist the Chicopee police Captain Gawron told 22news that there are no suspects at this time. If you have any information, you are asked to call the Chicopee Police at 413-592-6341.

News **08/24/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield police arrested a woman they believe is responsible for a string of convenience store armed robberies. Malika Barnett has been charged with three crimes. The 31 year old who lives on Allen Street was allegedly robbing stores with a mustache, beard and sideburns drawn on her face with makeup. She is accused of robbing a store this morning by pointing what seemed to be a gun at a store clerk on Sumner Avenue. Police say the surveillance footage shows that it was Barnett in that store.

News **08/25/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating the city's second murder in two nights. Springfield Police Officer Rick Rodriguez told 22News that a young girl is the city's 15th murder victim. Police aren't releasing her name because she's a juvenile. She was shot at the corner of Andrew and State Streets just before 11:00 last night. Today, in memory of the girl, candles were left

at the place where the she was shot. If you have any information on either shooting, call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at: (413) 787-6325 or you can Text-A-Tip.

News **08/29/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Police in Chicopee are still searching for a suspect in the stabbing death of 20-year old Amanda Plasse. Plasse was found dead, stabbed several times in her apartment on Friday. Hampden District Attorney Mark Mastroianni says investigators' early impression is that she knew her assailant. Friends and family say Plasse had worked as a waitress in several area restaurants, most recently at a local Friendly's.

News **08/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A man charged in connection with a ruptured sewer pipe in Agawam was arraigned today. Joseph O'Malley is accused of using an excavator on property he didn't own back in March. The property was protected wetlands. O'Malley allegedly struck a sewer line causing more than 700-thousand gallons of raw sewage to leak. Part of it flowed into the Westfield River and surrounding meadows. O'Malley is expected to be back in court at the end of September.

News **08/30/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Three members of the same family were arrested in Springfield for allegedly trying to steal copper pipes and radiators from a home on Wellington Street. Police were called to the home for a report of a suspicious car in the driveway. Sgt. John Delaney told 22news that when police arrived, they found 60-year old Johnny Lee Smith, 54 year old Johnny Louis Smith, and 64 year old Ernest Smith loading six radiators into the back of a pickup truck. The men face breaking and entering, plus larceny charges.

News **09/01/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police need your help to find a suspect who broke into a gas station Tuesday morning. Sergeant Delaney told 22News the suspect used a ladder to smash the front window of the Pride Gas Station at 549 Page Boulevard. He stole cigarettes and a small amount of cash before getting away. Sgt. Delaney says there's been a spike in early morning convenience store break-ins recently. If you have any information, call Springfield Police Detectives at 787-6355 or anonymously text a tip.

News **09/02/11** **4:30am** **: 30**

State police were out overnight conducting a sobriety checkpoint on West Columbus Ave. in Springfield. Trooper Scott Davis told 22News, 6 drivers were charged with driving under the influence. They'll continue doing sobriety checkpoints on different roadways through the end of the summer.

News **09/04/11** **7am** **: 30**

New this morning, two Springfield men are recovering after being shot at Blunt Park around 11 last night. Lt. John Slepchuk told 22News they were shot at the basketball court. Both victims were sent to the hospital. One went to Mercy, the other one to Baystate Medical Center. They are expected to be ok. No arrests have been made yet. If you have any information, call the Springfield Detective Bureau at: (413) 787-6355, or you can Text-A-Tip.

News **09/06/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Three people, a mother and her two teenagers, were found dead in their Lawrence home yesterday. Police say the crime appears to be domestic, though they've never been called to the home before. The mother's boyfriend has been arrested. Neighbors say the teens were good kids and the family appeared to be happy.

News **09/07/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police have arrested a man who they say stabbed a 12 year-old boy with chopsticks. Police Cadet Melissa Rodriguez told 22News 31 year old Vo Duc Au attacked the boy when he was doing his homework yesterday afternoon. The boy was stabbed in the arm and Au's father tried to stop him. According to police, Au then tried to stab his father in the face but he managed to get the chopsticks away from him. Au is being charged with two counts of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

News **09/07/11** **11pm** **: 30**

We begin with breaking news out of Springfield where arrest warrants have been issued for two suspects wanted in connection with a murder this summer. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney told 22news 21-year-old Carlos Bastos and 21-year-old Daniel Monteiro murdered 18-year-old James Rosario. Sgt. Delaney says the two suspects are both locked up for unrelated gun charges in the eastern part of the state. They'll be arraigned soon. Sgt. Delaney says both men also have known-ties to street gangs in Springfield.

News **09/10/11** **9am** **: 30**

Springfield Police say a Pine Point man was stabbed in the buttocks during a fight, and then refused to tell the cops who stabbed him. Police Sgt. Julio Toledo told 22News, "The victim was not cooperative." Toledo said the victim got into an argument with another man on Lamont Street around 8:45 tonight. Sgt. Toledo said the man likely knew who it was that stabbed him. The victim refused an ambulance ride to the hospital.

News **09/12/11** **6pm** **: 30**

No bail for three men in a triple murder that reputedly involves members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle club. 34 year-old Adam Hall, 44-year-old David Chalue and 31-year-old Caius Veiovis all pleaded not guilty to murder this morning in Central Berkshire District Court in Pittsfield. They return to court October 12th. Hall's lawyer said his client maintains his

innocence. Lawyers for the other men declined comment. Searchers found the remains of David Glasser, Edward Frampton and Robert Chadwell yesterday, nearly two weeks after they disappeared. Glasser had been expected to testify this month in the robbery, assault and kidnapping trial of Hall, the reputed sergeant at arms of the Berkshire County chapter of the Hells Angels.

News **09/12/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Ware Police have re-opened two streets that were closed all day after the discovery of a van tied to a suspicious fire and a missing elderly man. Ware Police Chief Dennis Healey told 22News State Police detectives set up crime scene tape around church and Walnut Streets this afternoon after they identified the van. The van was towed away and the scene cleared about nine o'clock tonight. According to Chief Healey, a suspicious fire damaged a house off Maple Street in the Wheelwright section of Hardwick this past Tuesday. The 84 year old man who lived there disappeared. State Police and Hardwick Police are conducting the investigation.

News **09/13/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Desmond Patton of Springfield has pleaded guilty to manslaughter for his role in a deadly daylight shooting in a shopping center parking lot. That shooting in August of 2009 took the life of Jeffy Hughes III, and left a 13-year-old boy with a bullet in his leg. Patten changed his plea Monday just before his murder trial was scheduled to start. He was sentenced to 10 to 12 years in prison. Prosecutors say Patton and another man fired at least 17 shots in a gang dispute.

News **09/13/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Three men are being held without bail in connection to the death of a trial witness and his two friends. 34 year-old Adam Hall, 44-year-old David Chalue And 31-year-old Caius Veiovis all pleaded not guilty to murder this morning in central Berkshire District Court in Pittsfield. The bodies of David Glasser, Edward Frampton and Robert Chadwell were found this weekend, almost two weeks after they disappeared. Glasser was scheduled to testify later this month in the robbery, assault and kidnapping trial of Hall, who is the reputed sergeant at arms of the Berkshire county chapter of the Hells Angels.

News **09/15/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Two former inmates at the Western Massachusetts Regional Women's Correctional Center in Chicopee have filed a federal lawsuit over videotaped strip searches. The lawsuit filed today alleges that videotaping of female detainees by male guards during strip searches is degrading and unconstitutional. The suit names Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe and Assistant Superintendent Patricia Murphy as defendants. The sheriff's office runs the women's prison. The lawsuit says hundreds of women have been subjected to videotaping and seeks class action status.

News **09/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

This weekend hasn't been a good one for 46 year old Shawn Marsh of Holyoke. He was charged with a murder from 28 years ago. He's accused of killing Rodney Wyman of Simsbury, Connecticut at a motel in the Boston suburb of Malden back in August of 1983. Holyoke Police Lt. Michael Higgins told 22News, they received word from the Middlesex County District Attorney's office to arrest the longtime Holyoke resident. Officers made the arrest Saturday night at Marsh's apartment at 158 Suffolk Street. It's believed that Marsh was living in Holyoke all those years that the Malden murder remained a mystery. Lt. Higgins said updated fingerprint technology reportedly led investigators to Marsh.

News **09/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

An angry gunman allegedly tried to shoot his way into a house party in Springfield's Forest Park neighborhood this weekend. It all happened at 78 Whittier Street where the alleged gunman was told he wasn't welcome. At that point according to Springfield detective Sgt. Kenneth Murray, the man fired seven times at a parked car. Sgt. Murray said a 24 year old woman standing near the car fell to the ground immediately but not before one bullet grazed her arm. However, neighbors' on Whittier Street said the shooting didn't surprise them.

News **09/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Greenfield Police are looking for a woman and her accomplice after a bank robbery last Friday night. Greenfield Police Sergeant Todd Dodge told 22News they are looking for Kimberly Hathaway and her alleged accomplice Anthony Dewdney. Both are from Greenfield, but have ties to Vermont, Connecticut, and Virginia. Hathaway came into the TD Bank on Main Street at about 7:40pm. Sergeant Dodge said she passed a note demanding cash. No weapon was shown. If you have any information, please call Detective Kevin Rowell at the Greenfield Police Department at (413) 773-5411.

News **09/19/11** **5pm** **: 30**

More issues for the tornado damaged East Forest Park neighborhood. Residents now say thieves have been targeting their cars. One was allegedly stolen and several others damaged this weekend in the area. Neighbors told 22News they have seen the best of Springfield in the aftermath of the tornado but they have also seen the worst.

News **09/19/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Authorities in western Massachusetts say the bodies of three men allegedly killed in a plot involving a ranking Hells Angels member were buried and covered with boulders on private property in Becket. Originally, The Berkshire District Attorney's Office declined to give details on where authorities found the remains of David Glasser, Edward Frampton and Robert Chadwell. But now, The Berkshire Eagle has reported that their bodies were discovered on Sept. 10, nearly two weeks after they disappeared. Ranking local Hells Angels member Adam Lee Hall of Pittsfield and two friends, David Chalue and Caius Veiovis, have pleaded

not guilty to murder, kidnapping and other charges. Authorities allege they killed the men in an intimidation plot because Glasser was set to testify against Hall. They are set to return to court Oct. 12.

News **09/19/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Three families in Chicopee also had their cars broken into overnight. The cars at 23, 31, and 37 Eldridge Street all were broken into. Thankfully only about \$20 dollars and a GPS were stolen. But, Lt. Mark Gilbert said this was a lot of robberies for the small street. He said the thieves obviously took what they could see so people really need to put any valuables they may have out of sight.

News **09/20/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An Amherst bank was robbed today, but the suspected robbers didn't get very far. The Northampton Cooperative Bank at 390 College Street was robbed just before noon today. According to Amherst Police, A man entered this bank and passed a note demanding money. An undisclosed amount of money was handed to the man and then he fled in a car with two other suspects. Belchertown Police were able to track down the three suspects. They are 29 year old Kimberly J. Choquette of Athol, 39 year old Jamie P. Comeau of Gardner, and 37 year old Jason S. Comeau of Athol. No weapon was displayed so all three have been charged with Unarmed Robbery. Thankfully no one was injured in this bank heist; all three suspects are being held at Hampshire County House of Corrections on a \$25,000 cash bail. They will be arraigned at the Eastern Hampshire District Court tomorrow morning.

News **09/20/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Amherst is known for having large, rowdy college parties but a party over the weekend took a violent turn. That's when police responded to a party at 167 College Street. They got there around 2:30 in the morning, and they found 200 to 250 students there. But it wasn't just the large party that they were responding to one 21 year old man from Roslindale had been badly beaten and two UMass students had stab wounds. None of the injuries was life threatening but it was the second weekend in a row that cops responded to a party turned violent.

News **09/20/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Greenfield Police are looking for woman and her alleged accomplice after a bank robbery this past Friday night. Greenfield Police Sergeant Todd Dodge told 22News they have warrants for Kimberly Hathaway and Anthony Dewdney. Both are from Greenfield, but have ties to Vermont, Connecticut, and Virginia. Greenfield Police say Hathaway walked into the TD Bank on Main Street at 7:40 last Friday night, and passed a note demanding cash. No weapon was shown, and no one was hurt. If you have any information, you're asked to call Greenfield Detectives at 773-5411.

News **09/21/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Prosecutors have made changes to charges against the man accused of setting several fires in Northampton including one that killed a father and son. Anthony Baye was indicted on new charges yesterday that now include six counts of misleading a police officer. Each charge relates to a separate interaction Baye had with law enforcement. The 26-year old also faces two murder charges for allegedly setting a fire that killed 81 year old Paul Yeskie Sr. and his 39-year old son Paul Yeskie Jr. Baye has pleaded not guilty.

News **09/22/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Prosecutors have dropped murder charges against two of the four men originally charged in connection with the shooting death of Shaun Tiago of Holyoke. Murder charges were dropped for 25-year-old Felipe Gonzalez of Chicopee, 25- year-old Luis Soto of Springfield. They both still face a charge of accessory after the fact in connection with the murder of Shaun Tiago in January 2010. The prosecutor said that evidence in the drug-related killing doesn't prove the two can be "successfully prosecuted for murder." In addition, the two will testify against one of the remaining defendants. The Republican reports that murder charges are still pending against Miguel Roman and Angel Gonzalez who have denied the killing.

News **09/22/11** **12pm** **: 30**

The woman who Greenfield police believe robbed a bank last week and the man they believed helped her have been arrested in Amherst. Amherst Police Lt. Ronald Young told 22News that 22 year old Kimberly Hathaway of Greenfield and 30 year old Anthony Dewdney of Springfield were arrested around 8:15 Wednesday morning. Greenfield police allege that Hathaway stole an undetermined amount of cash from the Main Street TD Bank branch on September 16. Lt. Young says that an Amherst police detective saw and recognized the two, and arrested them near the corner of Pelham Road and Harkness Road. Both Hathaway and Dewdney are expected to be arraigned today in Greenfield District Court.

News **09/22/11** **5am** **: 30**

Two arrests have been made in connection with the murder of an elderly Hardwick man. 21-year-old Jonathan Hart and his 19-year-old friend admitted to taking part in the murder of former town selectman, 84-year-old Joseph Cernauskas. Hart was the grand-nephew of the victim. Cernauskas had been missing since September 6th, when the fire department showed-up to his burning home on Maple Street in Hardwick. A massive search was launched and three days his van was found in Ware. Days later, the two suspects were reported missing and were found in Florida.

News **09/23/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Fifty one tires were slashed overnight on vans used by the Valley Opportunity Council in Chicopee. The Council's Director of Planning and Program Development Kevin Reed said 35 vans were vandalized. The Council was forced to cancel all transportation for its clients early this morning. Hundreds of people from the Department of Mental Retardation rely on the

vans to get to and from day programs. Parents also use the vans to get their children to and from daycare. If you have any information on the vandalism, call Chicopee police at 592-6341.

News **09/23/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

If you attempt to solicit a prostitute in the City of Springfield, there's a good chance that prostitute could be an undercover cop. That's what 13 alleged Johns found out when they were arrested in two separate prostitution stings. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the vice squad operated the stings last night and Saturday night. In the first sting near the corner of Locust Street and Palmer Avenue, nine men allegedly approached an undercover officer in less than 90 minutes. A second sting led to four additional arrests.

News **09/23/11** **5am** **: 30**

Yaazziel Rivera of Amherst will be indicted on more charges in court this morning. These new charges stem from a violent burglary in Northampton last month. Prosecutors say the 18-year-old broke into a North Street residence, and beat a 62-year-old woman unconscious. He also allegedly stole cash and jewelry from the house. Rivera has been held without bail since his arraignment in August.

News **09/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

New developments in the state's probation department probe. Former state Probation Commissioner John O'Brien has pleaded not guilty to a charge of conspiring with a top aide to former state treasurer Timothy Cahill to get his wife a job at the state lottery. O'Brien was released on personal recognizance. The other official, Scott Campbell, also pleaded not guilty. Indictments were announced last week by Attorney General Martha Coakley. Cahill was not named in the indictments.

News **09/26/11** **5pm** **: 30**

It was a rowdy weekend for college parties in Amherst. The Amherst Police Department made 168 arrests for alcohol violations, vandalism, and assaults. Students have only been in school for about three weeks but every single weekend there have been a lot of large parties that get out of hand and end with violence. There's been a dangerous string of college parties ending violently this year in Amherst. The first weekend of school police tried to disperse a large party at this house on Meadow Street and the students responded by throwing bottles at the cops. Then the following weekend one man was beaten and two students were stabbed at a party at this house on College Street. This weekend police made 168 arrests and they broke up a party of 500-700 people at this home on Meadow Street. And that's not all. There were assaults involving three students. We don't believe the injuries were serious; one person was taken to the hospital and treated. Campus authorities are hoping that students will settle down as the newness of the year wears off but they say they aren't taking these infractions lightly and anyone who breaks the university's conduct code will face stiff penalties. The Amherst Police Department has amped up patrols to crack down on these

parties over the weekends but they say every time they have to do this it puts added pressure on their resources.

News **09/26/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested a man who they say started shooting after a woman wouldn't accept his phone number. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22news 24 year old Marcus Campbell of Springfield was arrested this morning on two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and additional firearms charges. Sgt. Delaney says a 24 year-old woman told police that a man fired at her car near Worthington and Federal Streets early this morning. The victim told police that the man tried to give her his phone number but she refused. She said he pulled out a gun and started shooting at her car, hitting her tires. The attacker took off but the woman got a partial plate number. Police arrested him. The victim positively identified him as her attacker. Campbell is set to be arraigned today in Springfield District Court.

News **09/26/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A 41 year old man was stabbed at 164 Sargent Street in Holyoke around 6:45 tonight. Lt. Michael Higgins of the Holyoke police department told 22News they have arrested 48 year old Jesus Oquendo in connection with this stabbing. He's been charged with assault and battery with a deadly weapon, home invasion, and attempted murder. He'll be arraigned in Holyoke District Court in the morning. The victim's identity has not been released yet but he was transported to Baystate Medical Center for his injuries.

News **09/27/11** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield Police are looking for three suspects who allegedly robbed a food delivery man at knifepoint. Lt. John Slepchuck of Springfield Police Department told 22News three suspects a black male, a black female and Hispanic female approached a Chinese Food Delivery man from the Discount Chinese Restaurant at 457 State Street. One of those suspects allegedly pulled out a knife and demanded the delivery man hand over all of his money. The delivery man said he didn't have any money so the suspects stole the food instead. Nobody was hurt in the confrontation but it's just another reminder of how dangerous a job late night food delivery can be. In 2007 Dominoes Pizza Delivery Man Corey Lind was killed while making a delivery in Springfield. Alex Morales was tried and convicted of luring Lind to a neighborhood to steal his car. Lind was stabbed to death his body was found a couple days later, dumped in Monson. Morales is currently serving two life sentences for murder. If you have any information that can help police find the three suspects in this morning's robbery call 787-6302.

News **09/27/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Police have arrested a man in connection with a bank robbery in Hampden. Monson Police told 22News that Hampden, Wilbraham and State Police all were called to help search for the suspect who allegedly robbed the Hampden branch of Monson Savings Bank last night.

Police arrested Dean Christian of Monson around 1:00 this morning outside his home at 202 Silver Street. According to a news release Police were tipped off by a bank employee who recognized the suspect's car.

News **09/27/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Forty-two year-old Emiliano Santiago of Springfield is accused of sexual abuse against children in his own family. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that Santiago was arrested this morning on outstanding warrants for alleged indecent assaults that allegedly happened in 2010. Santiago faces ten counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 years old. Delaney said that the alleged victims are three members of Santiago's family.

News **09/27/11** **6am** **: 30**

Police are investigating an early morning shooting in the area of Cabot and Clemente Streets in Holyoke. Lt. Matt Moriarty told 22News it happened around 1:00 this morning. They found 27-year-old Lewis Rivera of Holyoke lying in the street. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center for gunshot wounds but is expected to survive. Lt. Moriarty also said they found a gun and some drugs near the victim. Right now there are no suspects.

News **09/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are searching for two men who robbed a TD Bank in Springfield this morning and forced a hospital to be locked down. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that two African American men robbed the Chestnut Street TD Bank branch just after 10:30 this morning. After the robbery, the men were seen running toward Mercy Medical Center. As a precaution, the Springfield police ordered the hospital locked down. At that time, the hospital was holding a mock drill involving police. If you have any information, you're asked to call the Springfield Police Detective Bureau at 787-6355, or you can "TEXT-a-TIP."

News **09/30/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

More than one hundred criminal indictments have been returned against people and companies accused of de-frauding Medicaid. Attorney General Martha Coakley said ten people and three companies are accused of defrauding the state run health insurance program, MassHealth, out of approximately \$10 million dollars. People linked to Adlife Healthcare, Prevention Medicine Associates, Mitchell Counseling Services and Wetterberg Nursing Homes are accused in separate cases of making false claims. In the case of Adlife Healthcare, which has an office in West Springfield, executive director Sharon Richardson and three of her employees allegedly billed MassHealth about \$5.5 million for services not provided. Coakley said medical fraud hurts everyone in Massachusetts in the form of higher health costs. Coakley said she is aware that unpaid workers and layoffs at Adlife may be consequences related to their fraud allegations, which the Department of Public Health, MassHealth and her office are looking into. The attorney general encourages anyone with information to call one of her office's many hotlines, which tipped them off to their current

medical fraud investigation.

News

09/30/11

5pm

: 30

Police are searching for a suspect in connection with a deadly double stabbing at an Enfield motel. Enfield Police were called to the Motel 6 on Hazard Avenue about 11:30 last night. That's where they discovered an unidentified man who suffered multiple wounds to his torso. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center, where he died. According to WTNH our Connecticut sister station a woman was also stabbed. One motel guest said he heard a scream in the middle of the night.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/25/11 6pm : 30

The Springfield Catholic diocese has announced where 700 students will go to school in September after the June 1st tornado damaged their school. During a news conference, Bishop Timothy McDonnell revealed that Cathedral High School students will go the Memorial School in Wilbraham. And St. Michael's Middle School students will go to Holy Cross Elementary School in Springfield. The building that houses the two schools was damaged during the June 1st tornado. The Bishop says Cathedral High School will be rebuilt.

News 07/26/11 5am : 30

The cost of back to school continues to rise, and not just for paper, pens and other supplies. Huntington bank has raised its "backpack index" up by at least \$50-dollars. Now because of state and local cutbacks, more school systems are charging for kids to play sports or in the band. And some are charging for other activities as well, like after school clubs.

News 08/02/11 5am : 30

Going to college can be very expensive, especially when you factor in all of the items you'll need for your dorm and your studies. It's quiet at UMass Amherst; it's the lull before the storm. Soon thousands of undergrads will flood this campus, but first they have to get prepared to go back to school and for college freshman that often means buying a lot of supplies like clothes and electronics. And then stuff for actual dorms, the sheets and other accessories that are essential so at the end of the day just buying stuff was a lot of money. But, experts say that this year college students won't be spending as much on electronics as they did last year. In fact, they are predicting an 11% decrease in spending on electronics.

News 08/03/11 6pm : 30

Hampden County District Attorney Mark Mastroianni told 22News his office has been asked by the city of Springfield to help look into an audit at Putnam Vocational Technical High School. City auditors were asked nearly a year ago by new principal Gilbert Traverso to do a full audit of all of the school's departments. The city council's audit committee met today to discuss the progress. The findings have already led to staff suspensions and at least one firing, but until the school department has a chance to look over the audit, the details will not be made public.

News 08/24/11 11pm : 30

It's almost time for kids to go back to school and BayState Health is making that a lot easier for some local students. It is the 6th year of it's adopt a classroom project. BayState donated school supplies to five area schools; Lincoln Elementary, Brightwood, Gerena Community, Milton Bradley and Margaret C. Ellis Schools. All the supplies were donated by BayState employees.

News **08/26/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Monday's the scheduled first day of class for many area schools, but that's changing. Irene's expected arrival has already prompted cancellations. After three months of summer vacation, many students will be getting another day off because of the Hurricane threat. Still, some schools are hoping for the best and waiting it out. The halls of Springfield public schools will be empty come Monday morning, along with Western New England University and Springfield College. And Westfield State University has already been evacuated. Even though classes aren't set to start there until September 7th, more than 200 students had to get out. And Westfield public schools are on standby, hoping to avoid another disaster. The June 1st tornado hit Munger Hill Elementary School and destroyed classrooms. Those have all been fixed and ready for Monday but now that may not happen. The classrooms are all set for the first day of school on Monday but if the hurricane knocks out power, damages buildings, or floods streets then the first day of school will have to be pushed back. The Superintendent says there is a procedure in place. They will be in contact with the police department, maintenance, and students. Westfield public schools plan to make the final decision early Monday morning. We have a full list of closings and cancellations up on our website that will be constantly updated at WWLP.com

News **08/31/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The children who began their school year today at Springfield's temporary Elias Brookings Elementary School apparently had a guardian angel looking out for them when the June 1st tornado severely damaged their school. The students settled in today in the temporary classrooms during the two years it'll take to repair the Brookings school on Hancock street. Principal Terry Powe told 22News, It was her secretary Cheyenne Maysenette whose warning convinced her the tornado was about to endanger the children.

News **09/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Today was the first day of class for seniors at Cathedral High school in a new location. The school is renting space in Wilbraham at the Memorial School, while the Springfield Diocese works with insurers to determine damage estimates from the June 1st tornado, a number that's expected to be in the millions. Students told 22News they're still together despite the change in venue.

News **09/06/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Students in storm ravaged Franklin County started their school year today after a delay caused by the storm damage. For some of these students life is starting to get back to

normal but for others they may still dealing with damage at their homes. We visited the Mohawk Middle and High School today. Some of these students had to seek alternative bus stops because of damaged secondary roads. But, overall, the first day of school went off smoothly considering how much these communities have already gone through.

News **09/06/11** **12pm** **: 30**

Today, the state is handing out \$2.5 million dollars in grants to state colleges based on their plans to boost academic performance. The money will go to schools that have proposed ways of raising graduation rates, strengthening science instruction and career development and closing achievement gaps among minorities. Twenty nine state schools applied for the grants.

News **09/08/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts schools have a knack for academically outperforming other states while at the same time, underperforming in low income neighborhoods. Massachusetts is one of six states participating in the Math + Science Initiative, and Western Massachusetts is a "state leader" in the program. The Massachusetts Math + Science Initiative, a non-profit that targets low income and minority students, announced over 3,500 or a 130% increase in qualifying Advanced Placement test scores since the program began in 2008 making a sizable dent in the state's achievement gap. The program provides funding that local school districts match. Funds go toward text books, projectors and other supplies, giving students a chance to take AP courses that may not have otherwise been an option. 3 years ago, 13 students at Narragansett Regional High School attended two AP classes. Today they have 150 students going into 8 AP classes.

News **09/14/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

They say it's a critical indicator of future success in school but Massachusetts third graders are still testing low for reading. In Holyoke, there is a major push to get children reading as early as possible. An early childhood literacy initiative involving the school department, community leaders and local businesses hopes to get 85% of all third graders proficient at reading by 2014. Getting into a library is a good first step.

News **09/14/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The SAT results are in and the results are mixed. Average Sat scores in Massachusetts are down a bit this year when compared to the previous year but they are still higher than the national average. Massachusetts high-schooler in the class of 2011 had an average score of 505 in critical reading. That's down three points since last year. In math, students scored 521, that's down two points, and in writing, students scored 500 that's down four points. According to the AP one reason for the dip may be the increase in the number of Massachusetts students taking the test.

News **09/21/11** **5am** **: 30**

MCAS results for all schools and school districts in the state have been released. The new numbers show that about two-thirds of Massachusetts schools that were designated as chronically underperforming a year ago showed significant improvement. These results are based on MCAS English and math exams taken by students this past spring. The numbers also showed that most schools exceeded or at least matched their performances, from a year ago.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/01/11 6pm : 30

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection gave a proposed Springfield biomass plant the green light. Palmer Renewable Energy received conditional air quality plan approval for the proposed plant on Page Boulevard. The city council voted last month to revoke the plant's special city permit raising a local obstacle to construction, and prompting Palmer Renewable to sue the city. But, the city council president stands by their decision despite the departments ruling.

News 07/13/11 5:30pm : 30

Amherst is trying to build a solar project that would provide the town with green energy. A group of ten residents have filed a lawsuit against the town that would prevent Amherst from being able to build this solar project in the old landfill. Sandy Pooler, Amherst's acting town manager, told 22News that the town is willing to sit down with these residents to work out their concerns; the town believes they can come to some sort of resolution and still move forward with the project. We think it's a good deal for tax payers because it will give us a stable source of energy with reasonable prices over time and it's a good use of the old landfill that otherwise would just be sitting there. If this lawsuit is settled, Amherst will start construction on this solar project at the end of this year and it could be completed as early as next spring.

News 07/21/11 5pm : 30

This heat is also contributing to poor air quality making it difficult for many people to breathe. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has issued a poor air quality warning for today. That's bad news for anyone creating the potential for some serious breathing problems. When you combine heat humidity and pollutants, you get a day like this where you can visibly see a haze that covers the surrounding areas, especially cities. These conditions put stress on people with lung diseases like asthma and heart conditions. Heat dries up discretions and causes dehydration and this will make the airways really unhealthy. And it's not just people with pre-existing conditions who suffer on days like this. Everybody will have some kind of stress in this situation. Exposure to elevated ozone levels can also make people more susceptible to respiratory infection. The EPA also asks that people help reduce emissions on days like this. That would be by using public transportation and filling up your gas tank at night to reduce gas vapors from getting into the air.

News 07/22/11 5:30pm : 30

A heat advisory's in effect for Western Massachusetts. Its day three of temperatures 90 degrees or higher in the Springfield area; making it an official heat wave, the first heat wave of the summer. Across the country, emergency room visits were way up, according to public health officials, mainly because of people suffering from heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

News **08/03/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Construction begins in the second phase of the Chicopee Falls Sewer Project. Today city officials broke ground on the new \$4.7 million dollar state funded project. There will be inconvenience associated with the construction in the neighborhood. But this will help reduce storm related flooding and sewer backups. This project will create a single pipe just for sanitary sewage, which will also help the environment.

News **08/04/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Close to \$9 million dollars is on its way to Western Massachusetts. It will help in the tornado rebuilding process, but there's a catch. It's pretty simple. You have to prove your home or business was damaged in the June 1st tornadoes. You have to rebuild, but this money can only be used if you go green when you rebuild. Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan, the former mayor of Westfield and the State Department of Energy Resources held a news conference on Stewart Avenue in Monson. It was at the Phipps family home, which was completely destroyed. Their three teenage daughters were home when the tornado tore off their house, but they were in the basement and escaped un-hurt. A lot of these families in Monson are staying and rebuilding, and Secretary Sullivan told 22News some of the energy efficient things you can do to qualify for this grant money. The plan itself can run from solar installations, to solar hot water, all they down to insulation and weather stripping but even as small as where you plant your trees on your lot in relationship to your house to be more energy efficient. You don't have to live in Monson to be eligible for this money, you just have to prove your home or business was damaged in the tornadoes. If you have any questions on this program, you can call 800-628-8413. Secretary Sullivan told 22News, the Department of energy resources will also be doing a lot of community outreach to educate people interested in rebuilding green, he also said, local trade and union workers will have much of the information you'll need to apply for this grant money.

News **08/09/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Patrick Administration has been consistently promoting clean energy initiatives to modernize the state's energy consumption. Governor Deval Patrick has set several clean energy initiatives throughout his term, and educating young people in the renewable energy industry is a key component of his plan. The Patrick Administration is honoring participants of the first ever Clean Energy Industry Internship Program. The program has placed 117 students in 70 companies across the state, including Amherst-based Hyperion Systems, a company that helps farmers maximize energy efficiency through solar farming. That team includes UMass Amherst sophomore student Jaren Lutenedger, who says the experience has opened his eyes to the possibilities of the clean energy industry. Renewable energy advocates say Western Massachusetts has some of those the most productive land in

the state because not only can the soil be used for crops, the surface used for grazing, but the air can be used for solar farming.

News **08/09/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Easthampton is going green; they're replacing most of their street lights with LED lights. We found crews hard at work today installing the LED lights on Main Street. Work on this project started yesterday. We tried contacting Easthampton's Mayor Michael Tautznik but he did not return our phone calls. But, he did tell the Daily Hampshire Gazette that there will be 469 new LED lights installed and they're being paid for by a green community's grant and the Western Massachusetts Electric Company. People in Easthampton told us they're happy about this new project.

News **08/18/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts is leading the way for green jobs and sustainable farming. A Brookings Institute survey found that western Massachusetts has one of the sixth largest economies for green jobs. State officials toured a UMass research farm in South Deerfield, where they are using solar power to grow sustainable crops. It's a formula that is being copied nationally.

News **08/18/11** **6am** **: 30**

Radioactive tritium from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant has made its way into the Connecticut River, that's according to Vermont Health Officials. The report doesn't say how far down river the tritium has traveled but it does say it's in the water. Built in 1972 the over 30 year old nuclear plant has been at the center of controversy before. In 2007, one of the cooling towers collapsed spilling non-radioactive water and on Aug. 3 of this year, radioactive strontium was found in fish taken from the CT River. Now this is not a new leak as far as we know this is tritium that was in the groundwater from the leak that occurred in 2010 from a faulty underground pipe. Tritium has been linked to cancer when ingested in large amounts. Vermont Yankee spokesman Larry Smith issued this one sentence statement "Once we receive the report from the Department of Health, we'll thoroughly review it, as well as our own data." And in response to that, Vermont's Governor said this "Confirmation that tritium has reached the shoreline of the Connecticut River is further evidence of the immediate need for more extraction wells and increased monitoring of the situation." Right now Vermont Yankee is locked in a legal battle with the state of Vermont. The state wants to shut the plant down. But the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already approved a 20 year license extension.

News **08/19/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Elm Electric Company of Westfield is counting on the sun to help generate a more than 30% savings on the company's yearly electric bill. Elm Electric and its sister company Elm Solar; today activated a 30 KiloWatt system that president Bob Bacon told 22News will help the company save \$45,000. Part of that savings will come from energy credits from the state.

Bacon said he can't get over how much he saved from an even smaller system he put in a couple of years ago.

News **08/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

In Western Franklin County, the overflowing Deerfield River has closed Route two in Charlemont. It's just too dangerous. Route two is under water. The Deerfield overflowed its banks, completely covering route two in Charlemont as you can see from the flooded rest area and parking lot. While our cameras were rolling, we saw a lot of debris moving very fast in the rushing muddy waters. We also saw a propane tank bobbing in the angry waters. We saw logs floating by. As you look at the video from Charlemont and Shelburne, you can see the raging muddy waters of the angry Deerfield River.

News **08/28/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Deerfield River overflowed and flooded the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls this afternoon. We have been in Franklin County since 9 o'clock yesterday evening and it wasn't until 1 this afternoon that we came across what's behind me now. The waters of the Deerfield River rose and have flooded surrounding homes and ripped structures off their foundation. The current is very strong and officials have evacuated the area. Irene's wrath has taken over Shelburne Falls delivering a catastrophic blow to nearby homes and businesses. Franklin county officials have declared a state of emergency and a flash flood warning is in effect. Foot traffic to the Bridge of Flowers has been blocked off as well as all roads leading to it. Homes in Shelburne and Shelburne Falls are without power. The Shelburne police station is also experiencing a power outage. People have been coming in from all parts of Shelburne and surrounding areas to take pictures and witness this on their own but as night falls police are asking everyone to stay as far away from the river as possible as the storm has already claimed too many lives.

News **08/29/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A day after Irene stormed through Western Massachusetts a section of South Hadley is feeling the effects. Much of Cove Island Road has been evacuated, less than a mile from the 202 rotary. Much of the street, which has about a dozen homes, is three feet under water. The flooding starting around here about 5:30 yesterday evening it was coming up about a foot an hour. Much of Cove Island Road in South Hadley is flooded, I'm almost waist deep into the water, here off the Connecticut River, this is a walking bridge that the people who live in this house would use to get to their home, they have since evacuated, it's going to be a couple days before they can get back in the water is not expected to crest here until sometime tomorrow morning. This type of level, we haven't seen this since 2005.

News **08/30/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Northampton is used to a small amount of flooding in the spring time but, the flooding they've been dealing with is unlike anything they usually get. We saw at least a dozen houses underwater and the only way to get to them was by boat so the U.S. Coast Guard took us on

a tour of the damage. From high ground it's easy to see that the Connecticut River is flooded but, to get a closer look at the damage caused by Tropical Storm Irene in Northampton you have to take a boat. So Chief Brian Duggan of the Northampton Fire Department set us up with the U.S. Coast Guard to give us a tour. To give you perspective the waters we were boating on, shouldn't have been there at all. This is the Oxbow's Water Sports Center despite its name it's not supposed to be submerged. Still the most heartbreaking part of the tour had to be the homes about a dozen of them are underwater. A true nightmare for the owners of these homes but there is good news, the water is receding. It was much higher on Monday this lamp post used to be completely underwater. Still, Chief Duggan told us it will take a week or two for these waters to recede completely. The flooding you just saw is the reason why a portion of Route 5 is closed. This water is extending up onto Route five and Chief Duggan said he expected that road to stay closed for the next day or two.

News **09/06/11** **6pm** **: 30**

More than one week later, many people in Franklin County are still struggling with damage from Tropical Storm Irene. And this week's heavy rainfall is only complicating the clean up. We visited Colrain today. That community saw heavy flooding from Irene and now they're working to repair roads that were completely washed away. It's been over a week since Tropical Storm Irene flooded portions of Franklin County, but places like Colrain are still struggling to repair the damage. Nick Anzuoni has lived in Colrain for 18 years; he's also the fire chief. He said he's never seen damage like this from a storm. As you can see the waters of the North River are still very high but before the receded they washed away this section of Adamsville Road. He said Adamsville Road should be opened to traffic in a few days after these crews finish laying down the gravel. But, it won't be able to be repaved until next summer. Up the street this bridge was disconnected from its base on Maxam Road. Just another example of how strong Mother Nature can be. If you live in Franklin or Berkshire Counties and you lost your job because of Tropical Storm Irene, you may be eligible for federal disaster unemployment assistance. You have until October 6th to apply for those benefits.

News **09/07/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Tropical storm Irene destroyed thousands of acres of crops in western Massachusetts. Hundreds of farms in Franklin County alone were damaged by flooding. Crops were flattened and covered in silt. They've lost thousands of dollars in crops and are not sure how they are going to feed their dairy cows through the winter. But the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency is offering assistance. They've started accepting applications for their Emergency Conservation Program. This will help in removing debris from fields as well as remove excess silt.

News **09/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Environmental groups say biomass plants are a bio-mess. Biomass plants are part of the governor's goal of getting 15% of the state's energy needs away from fossil fuels and onto renewable sources by 2020. But environmental groups say burning biomass, a fancy word

for wood, is harmful to the environment. Putting a twist to the parking ticket, citizen and environment groups are giving the governor an "environmental ticket" plus 5-thousand petitions against what they consider the state's weak regulations on biomass plants. Environmental groups say wood burning power plants could damage air quality through carbon dioxide emissions and lead to the clear cutting of forests. So far, biomass plants in Springfield, Greenfield, Russell and Pittsfield have been proposed in Western Massachusetts. Of the biomass plants proposed, environmental groups say they would lag at 20 to 40% efficiency. Currently, ratepayers pay more on their electricity bills to subsidize clean energy projects such as solar and wind power. Since wood burning is also considered a renewable energy source, environmental groups say ratepayers are being forced to subsidize dirty power. In the spring, the governor proposed regulations to limit state financing to the most energy-efficient biomass plants.

News

09/19/11

5:30pm

: 30

Still more than a month until Halloween and already the pumpkin spiced drinks and ice cream are on the shelves. However finding actual pumpkins might be difficult to do this year. Tropical storm Irene, and the heavy rain she brought, has been devastating for pumpkin production in the New England and here in western Massachusetts. Tom Calabrese, the owner of Calabrese farms believes he may have lost 50-60 percent of his pumpkin crop with the heavy rains and diseases that were brought up by Tropical Storm Irene at the end of August. The rain from Irene made the pumpkins vulnerable, the airborne and water born diseases that came from the south were then able to attack the pumpkins. Not all pumpkins are affected, the pumpkins that grew higher up avoided the most water and survived. But peppers, summer squashes and other vine crops were also heavily damaged. Heading into this fall pumpkins may be harder for you to find and cost you a little more. Lost sales for area farmers.

News

09/21/11

6pm

: 30

This has been a tough year for allergy sufferers. It's expected to be longer and stronger that's because of all the rain we've had and the warmer temperatures. The rain created more plants, which means more pollen and the temperatures are expected to stay fairly warm a little longer which means a longer season for allergies. Usually they end by the first frost and that's still a ways off. Dr. Fred Mudawwar is an allergist in Northampton, he told us that the season is so bad; people who don't usually get allergies could be affected by them.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/01/11 4:30am : 30

Today Senator Scott Brown will visit neighborhoods in Springfield and Sturbridge. He will be checking out tornado damage and speaking with survivors. Mayor Domenic Sarno will give Senator Brown a tour of the city around 9:30 A.M. starting at Brookings School on Hancock Street. At 11 A.M. he will start his tour in Sturbridge, at the town police department on Main Street.

News 07/12/11 6pm : 30

Some lawmakers are trying to overturn a ban on traditional light bulbs as a new law is set to go into effect requiring Americans to buy bulbs that save on energy costs. A new law will soon ban old, incandescent bulbs and require consumers to buy new, energy efficient ones. And, although they'll save on their electricity bills, the bulbs themselves will cost more. Now, some Republican lawmakers are hoping to overturn the ban. They claim the law is an example of the government infringing on people's rights. The Heartland Institute, a non-profit group, says the new bulbs contain enough mercury to cause contamination problems, a fact that may be used by the lawmakers looking to get rid of the ban. The debate begins today, but there is no telling whether the new arguments will bring back the old bulbs.

News 07/18/11 11pm : 30

Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray made an appearance in Northampton this evening. The visit was part of the Patrick-Murray administration's "Summer Conversation Tour," a series of meetings to address the questions and concerns of communities across Massachusetts. It was standing room only tonight as residents from the Pioneer Valley grilled Murray with questions on topics ranging from Biomass, to home foreclosures and job creation.

News 08/02/11 6am : 30

Massachusetts lawmakers, Congressmen Richard Neal and John Olver voted against this debt plan. Both agreed that this deal could lead to cuts in Social Security, Medicare, public safety and education, which would hurt the middle-class and seniors. Neal criticized the bill for not including job creation, economic growth or relief to out-of-work Americans. And Olver also argued that it allows the wealthiest to avoid any sacrifice.

News 08/02/11 11pm : 30

The Sales Tax Holiday weekend is a done deal. Governor Patrick today signed the bill creating another sales tax holiday for purchases for the weekend of Aug. 13-14th. The measure suspends the state's 6.25% sales tax on just about anything selling for less than \$2,500. Retailers say the holiday boosts sales during a slow time of year, and helps families make much-needed purchases. This would be the state's seventh tax holiday in the past eight years.

News **08/09/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The Patrick Administration has been consistently promoting clean energy initiatives to modernize the state's energy consumption. Governor Deval Patrick has set several clean energy initiatives throughout his term, and educating young people in the renewable energy industry is a key component of his plan. The Patrick Administration is honoring participants of the first ever Clean Energy Industry Internship Program. The program has placed 117 students in 70 companies across the state, including Amherst-based Hyperion Systems, a company that helps farmers maximize energy efficiency through solar farming. That team includes UMass Amherst sophomore student Jaren Lutenedger, who says the experience has opened his eyes to the possibilities of the clean energy industry. Renewable energy advocates say Western Massachusetts has some of those the most productive land in the state because not only can the soil be used for crops, the surface used for grazing, but the air can be used for solar farming.

News **08/10/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Senator Scott Brown visited Amherst this afternoon. Senator Scott Brown came to Amherst with two goals. The first was the talk about job creation and the second was to talk about tourism and to do that he hiked up Bare Mountain. When he arrived he was bombarded by a large group of protesters who were campaigning for universal healthcare, tax increases for the rich, and an end to the overseas wars. Many of them followed him all the way up the New England National Scenic trail! When they all came back down, we asked him what he thinks about the protesters plea for higher taxes.

News **08/12/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Jose Tosado was the first Hispanic elected to Springfield's city council. Now he's setting his sights on becoming Springfield's first Hispanic mayor. Among dozens of supporters, Springfield candidate for Mayor Jose Tosado on Thursday officially opened his Campaign headquarters in the former Blockbuster on Armory Street. The sitting city council president says he's a proven manager, in contrast to the man he wants to unseat. Tosado's slogan is "The time has come." His supporters also seem to think the time has come for change. Tosado told 22News he's already outlined a 5-point Public Safety plan to reduce violence in the city in the both the short and long term." To become mayor, Tosado will have to be one of two top vote-getters in a three-way preliminary election next month. Domenic Sarno is seeking his third term as mayor. Springfield school committee woman Antonete Pepe is a candidate as well. The general election will be Tuesday, November 8th.

News **08/26/11** **6am** **: 30**

Governor Patrick will be meeting with local and state officials today, to prepare for the many possible paths of Hurricane Irene. A spokesman for MEMA says there remains uncertainty over the path and intensity of the storm when it reaches the state. Right now Massachusetts' coastal communities in particular are of concern.

News **08/29/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The state is looking for ways to help community's hard-hit storm Irene. The state Treasurer is reaching out to folks in Western Massachusetts impacted by this year's severe weather that could be eligible to recover unclaimed money or property. Before a decision on state funds toward storm recovery efforts is made, lawmakers are waiting for cities and towns to assess the cost of damage from Tropical Storm Irene. But a treasure chest of over \$2 billion in unclaimed assets sits abandoned in the Commonwealth. As the state assesses storm damage, Treasurer Steve Grossman is conducting an outreach program designed to get that abandoned property in the hands of hard-hit folks in Western Massachusetts. Treasurer Grossman says one in ten people in the Commonwealth have a rightful claim to abandoned property in the form of bank accounts, lost wages, or stocks. You can find that website at www.findmassmoney.com. Members of the Treasurer's office will be in Monson, Springfield, and Holyoke next week to host public forums with more information.

News **09/01/11** **6pm** **: 30**

When a natural disaster strikes, usually this is when politicians can't make enough public appearances. But Governor Deval Patrick hasn't been seen in Western Massachusetts since Monday. He returned today. Governor Patrick went to Washington D.C. to for a news conference on Highway Funding. At the same time Irene devastated part of his state. The Governor has a lot of faith in his emergency staff. Heath Fire Chief and Highway Superintendent Michael Smith is just glad the Governor is here at all. This morning was the first time some people in Heath have access to the outside world since Sunday. FEMA came into the town on Monday and Chief Smith told 22News there has been a vast improvement this week. Governor Patrick said the state doesn't have a blank check, but the state will find a way to repair these towns after another disaster. The recovery continues, now the flooding has receded. Many roads and bridges will have to be rebuilt before they are re-opened.

News **09/01/11** **11pm** **: 30**

The McKnight Neighborhood Council is hosting a series of events to help voters prepare for Springfield's upcoming mayoral primary election on Tuesday September 20th. School Committee member Antonette Pepe and Springfield City Council President Jose Tosado participated in a candidate's forum tonight. They answered questions about how they would handle crime, tornado recovery efforts and environmental issues. People who attended tonight's forum told 22News it was an opportunity to learn a little more about what the candidates stand for.

News **09/02/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Governor Patrick made three stops in Western Massachusetts today to assess tropical storm Irene's flood damage. The Governor started in Williamstown in Berkshire County before inspecting the Franklin County flood damage in Heath and Hawley. 22News asked Governor Patrick if he knew of any structural problems on I-91 and what the plan is for re-opening the southbound lanes between Greenfield and Deerfield. We're not going to open 91 southbound until we can get a good clear under water look at the footings. We haven't been able to do that because not just the volume of water which has subsided, but the speed of the current. Governor Patrick is asking people for their patience and told 22News they will reopen that stretch of I-91 South it as soon as it's safe.

News **09/08/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick is in Springfield tonight. Governor Patrick visited Springfield's Renaissance School this afternoon. The Governor visited a few classrooms, taking questions and talking to kids. The Governor told stories of how he failed the bar exam twice and never thought he would become the governor and told the kids to always reach for their dreams. But on the heels of another natural disaster, Tropical Storm Irene, which caused the flooding in Franklin County.

News **09/12/11** **6pm** **: 30**

This evening Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno along with his two challengers, Jose Tosado and Anoinette Pepe will debate the issues. This will be the first time that all three have debated. We're here at the Spring of Hope Church of God in Christ on Alden Street; this is where the first of two public debates will be held this week. Incumbent Mayor Sarno will go toe-to-toe with City Council President Tosado and School Committee member Pepe. Tonight's debate is being hosted by the Springfield Branch of the NAACP, whose President Rev. Talbert Swan will act as moderator. 22News spoke to voters in the neighborhood who are eager to hear where the candidates stand on the issues.

News **09/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

As legalized gambling in Massachusetts inches closer to becoming a reality the leaders of several local cities say they're interested in the western Massachusetts spot. But with elections coming up, how much will the issue play into the vote. Chicopee Mayor Michael Bissonette recently said he wants the city in line for consideration if casino gambling becomes legal in the state. But the man challenging him in his bid for reelection says not so fast. Gary Lefebvre (la fave) runs a restaurant and says he's afraid of what a casino in the city would do to local businesses. Although voters seem pretty split on the issue it's clear it will be on their minds as they head in to vote. Some say no way. Others are a little unsure. And a few are crossing their fingers. The state senate is scheduled to begin debate on their version of the bill September 26th.

News **09/19/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Environmental groups say biomass plants are a bio-mess. Biomass plants are part of the governor's goal of getting 15% of the state's energy needs away from fossil fuels and onto renewable sources by 2020. But environmental groups say burning biomass, a fancy word for wood, is harmful to the environment. Putting a twist to the parking ticket, citizen and environment groups are giving the governor an "environmental ticket" plus 5-thousand petitions against what they consider the state's weak regulations on biomass plants. Environmental groups say wood burning power plants could damage air quality through carbon dioxide emissions and lead to the clear cutting of forests. So far, biomass plants in Springfield, Greenfield, Russell and Pittsfield have been proposed in Western Massachusetts. Of the biomass plants proposed, environmental groups say they would lag at 20 to 40% efficiency. Currently, ratepayers pay more on their electricity bills to subsidize clean energy projects such as solar and wind power. Since wood burning is also considered a renewable energy source, environmental groups say ratepayers are being forced to subsidize dirty power. In the spring, the governor proposed regulations to limit state financing to the most energy-efficient biomass plants.

News **09/21/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Mayor Sarno had a pretty strong showing in today's preliminary election. His vote-total is greater than both Tosado and Pepe's totals combined. And for the first time, whoever wins the general election in November will lead the city of Springfield for a four year term. The race for the Mayor's Office will be between two term incumbent Mayor Domenic Sarno and the first Latino ever to run for mayor and current city council president Jose Tosado. Both camps were thrilled at the results, even though there was a wide gap between the two candidates. Sarno had 60% of the vote, Tosado earned just 23%.

News **09/21/11** **11pm** **: 30**

It would appear Holyoke's mayor has her work cut out for her ahead of the November elections. Just one vote separated incumbent mayor Elaine Pluta and her challenger Alex Morse; Morse had the lead. Even though it was only by one vote, the energy in Alex Morse's headquarters tonight indicates they are feeling good and confident for the November elections. Morse said beating the incumbent by a vote was a major victory and a nice conclusion to the last few months. He said he's been going door to door meeting members of the Holyoke community and is happy to see it paid off.

News **09/22/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Chicopee's Mayor won't run for re-election unopposed this November. Gary Lefebvre announced his candidacy for mayor tonight. Lefebvre told 22News he opposes Michael Bissonnette's support for extending the mayor's term from two years to four. The restaurant owner submitted more than twice the number of signatures needed to secure his slot on the November ballot.

News **09/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Senator Scott Brown continues his series of forums throughout the Commonwealth. The forum comes at a crucial time for these veterans. They are not only bracing themselves for the proposed defense cuts but many of them say the staggering unemployment rate for those service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan is crippling. The U.S Chamber of Commerce estimates more than 26% of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are unemployed. It's a statistic that Senator Scott Brown addressed in his forum, saying he is committed to helping eradicate the growing trend. The details of how the deficit cuts will affect veteran's benefits will be unveiled by the bi-partisan "super-committee." They have until Thanksgiving to find 1.5 trillion dollars in cuts.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/07/11 12pm : 30

Massachusetts is one of the thinnest states in the country. A new study has ranked Massachusetts the third least obese state, behind Connecticut, and Colorado. This as obesity rates in the Baystate continue to climb. The study by the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation showed the adult obesity rate in our state is now just over 22%. That's compared to 15 years ago when the obesity rate was just fewer than 12%.

News 07/12/11 5:30pm : 30

Governor Patrick has struck a deal with unions and public employees on municipal health insurance. Union leaders and municipal managers across the Commonwealth have agreed on a compromise deal that addresses the collective bargaining rights of public employees when negotiating their municipal health insurance. In a bid to save cities and towns more than \$100 million dollars in cost savings, municipalities will be able to transfer their public employees to the state funded group insurance commission (GIC) if it will save them 5% more than what can be achieved through a local healthcare plan. Independent plan design changes must go through a newly designed expedited negotiation process. The process will allow unions and public employees to collectively bargain their healthcare plans, but if no agreement is reached after 30 days, the case will go to a panel made up of a union member, a municipal representative and a third person selected by the state Secretary of Administration and Finance. Earlier in the year, unions and public employees accused state government of following in the footsteps of Wisconsin by threatening to strip them of their collective bargaining rights. But this final compromise deal is something that the unions were in the end reluctantly able to support.

News 07/15/11 6pm : 30

Healthcare leaders across the state are sounding the alarm on proposed federal cuts to healthcare. Washington is embroiled in debt and deficit reduction talks and one of the proposals on the table is major cuts to Medicare and Medicaid amounting to billions of dollars. Massachusetts healthcare leaders say proposed federal cuts to Medicare and Medicaid amounting to \$1 to \$3 billion dollars a year in the state will severely limit health services and cost thousands of jobs. Health leaders fear Washington may target healthcare spending to reduce the federal debt ceiling without balancing cuts with revenue increases. The resulting consequences may limit facilities, services and patient access to healthcare. Health leaders further warn that thousands of layoffs will occur if the health industry sustains anymore cuts which will drive up unemployment and decrease state revenues. President

Obama has offered to balance spending cuts with revenue increases, but congressional Republicans insist that any tax increases will harm the economy and discourage business growth.

News **07/18/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Students from UMass Amherst hit the streets of Amherst, Cambridge and Northampton today to protest changes to their healthcare plan. The new plan would affect all students and graduate employees of the University. Co-pays and deductibles would rise and a fifteen to twenty percent "co-insurance" fee would be charged for services outside the campus health center. Students and union representatives say they were blindsided by the news, which came in an email sent in June.

News **07/19/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The Bay State is getting low marks in its efforts to help residents lead a healthy lifestyle, according to a new report. The Boston Foundation and NEHI rated the state in 14 areas of public health. The state didn't get any A's or B's in its efforts to build walking or bike paths, promote farmer's markets, or encourage workplace health programs. Massachusetts got the lowest marks for rates of daily exercise among high school students.

News **07/20/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Advocates for medical marijuana are pushing to get the issue on the ballot in 2012. In 2008 a ballot question decriminalized up to an ounce of marijuana and now advocates are trying to make it legal for the chronically ill. Medical marijuana advocates say the herb can help treat everything from minor pain, to brain tumors. But critics say legalizing medical marijuana would lead to an increase in crime. Most people in western Massachusetts disagree. In fact, people told 22News that they think legalizing marijuana for all purposes would actually make the crime level drop and make the streets safer. A 2009 Suffolk University Poll of 500 voters showed that 81 percent supported having seriously or terminally ill patients use marijuana if approved by a doctor. In order for the question to appear on the 2012 ballot it would need to be approved by the Attorney General and be accompanied by nearly 69,000 signatures by November. Sixteen states have already legalized medical marijuana including Maine, Vermont and Rhode Island.

News **08/02/11** **6am** **: 30**

In a year, women with insurance can get birth control for free. And that's not the only perk. Many women go to Planned Parenthood or their local pharmacy for birth control, and most women have to pay a co-pay. But this time next year, you can get birth control and other preventive care for free, if you have insurance. And that's not all, women with health coverage will also be entitled to an annual physical, HPV screening, counseling on domestic violence. And there will be support for nursing mothers as well. A panel of experts unanimously recommended this last month. Nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. aren't planned, and experts say the prevention of unintended pregnancies is essential for the

psychological, emotional and physical health of women. But someone will have to pay: the cost will be spread among other people with health insurance, resulting in slightly higher premiums. There is a provision that allows religious institutions to opt out of birth control coverage, but opponents argue that's not enough. And this coverage also means no co-pays for the "morning-after" pill. Which is controversial since religious conservatives say Plan B is an abortion drug.

News **08/03/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Pharmacies are supposed to make people healthy. That's what some lawmakers are arguing about an effort to ban tobacco sales in all pharmacies in the Bay State. Alcohol sales are already restricted in grocery stores and other retails stores, is tobacco next? Could cigarette sales in pharmacies go up in smoke? The Public Health Committee thinks so. Medicine is meant to make people healthy. That's the theory behind the proposal to ban the sale of tobacco products at all locations where health professionals are employed. This also includes grocery stores that have pharmacies inside of them which means that anyone looking to buy food wouldn't be able to buy their tobacco products there either. Opponents of this measure say tobacco is a legal product that creates tax revenue with cigarette sales. This bill is modeled after a Boston city ordinance that prohibits pharmacies from selling tobacco products. Some other communities have followed suit as well. This bill cleared the same panel last year. However, it was stalled in the Health Care financing committee.

News **08/04/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Holyoke residents and health professionals gathered to make a promise to protect clean air. The rate of asthma in Holyoke among children is twenty four percent, more than double the state average of ten percent. Those who sign the Clean Air Promise agree to support clean air policies that protect the health of the entire community.

News **08/04/11** **5pm** **: 30**

Hospitals here in the Bay State will reap an annual windfall of \$275 million dollars due to the new health care law, this while 41 other states will get less money. Critics of this say it is a manipulation of the payment system. But hospitals here say they have been waiting for this change. Hank Porten CEO of Holyoke Medical Center says they lost this money five years ago when they were one of two states who lost money while the rest of the states gained.

News **08/05/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Residents living in Springfield Housing Authority building will soon have to put their butts out. The Springfield Housing Authority Board of Commissioners has adopted a smoke-free policy that will take effect April first of next year. Residents will no longer be able to smoke inside any of the buildings and that includes units and common areas in all 27 buildings. The executive director of the Housing Authority told 22News it's not only a health matter, but a financial one as well.

News

08/14/11

5:30pm

: 30

Massachusetts has the second highest healthcare premiums in the country. The state Secretary of Health and Human Services says the high cost of living in New England is a key factor in the Commonwealth's high health care costs. Testifying before the House Bonding Committee, Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, the state Secretary of Health and Human Services said Massachusetts only trails Vermont in ratcheting the highest healthcare premiums in the nation. To streamline healthcare administration costs, the state is moving toward an electronic record keeping system, where information can be accessed from hospital to hospital to track patients. \$50 million in federal stimulus funds are being filtered into the project. Westfield Senator Knapik suggests slashing entitlements to further cut down costs, such as healthcare for legal immigrants and dental benefits that others state don't offer. The General Court will meet this fall to discuss Governor Deval Patrick's bill to overhaul the healthcare payment system to bring premiums down.

News

08/14/11

5am

: 30

Massachusetts residents, who buy private health care plans through the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector, have until today to participate in an open enrollment period. A recent state law restricts when many individuals and families buying health insurance outside of an employer's plan or a government-subsidized program can purchase or change plans. The next open enrollment period for customers to purchase or switch plans will not occur until July 2012.

News

08/16/11

6am

: 30

Four of the five largest US tobacco companies are fighting back against graphic health warning requirements on packaging. They're suing the federal government over new graphic cigarette labels that include the sewn-up corpse of a smoker, and a picture of diseased lungs. The companies say the warning labels violate their free speech rights by requiring them to carry a government-sponsored appeal to not use their legal products. They want the labels stopped.

News

08/19/11

5:30pm

: 30

More Dentists have signed on to help western Massachusetts children from poor families. 11 Dentists who come from all over the United States have agreed to serve their two year residency at the Holyoke Health center. Dr. Jennifer Ramirez came all the way from Bakersfield, California. The fact there are 65,000 children from poor families in greater Springfield, sealed the deal for her decision to help these kids. And parents gave thanks when they learned there are now more pediatric dentists for their kids. And during their two year residency at the Holyoke health center, these new dentists will be under scrutiny from their instructor Dr. Mariella DeStephano. Once their two year residency's up these dentists can go anywhere in the country they please, but the Holyoke Health Center's director Jay Brieness, admits he would be extremely happy if some of these full fledged dentists for children decided to remain here in Western Massachusetts.

News **09/05/11** **11pm** **: 30**

A new strain of swine flu has sickened two children in Pennsylvania and Indiana. The CDC says the new virus contains a gene from the H1N1 swine flu that caused a worldwide scare two years ago, plus parts of other viruses that have infected pigs over the last decade. The infected kids had received flu shots last year. Both have since recovered. No other cases of the "new flu" have been confirmed so far.

News **09/06/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Flu season is right around the corner and doctors are urging parents to prepare by getting their children vaccinated. Even if they got a flu shot last year, the American Academy of Pediatrics is recommending they get another dose this fall. This year's vaccine is identical to last year's but children lose about half of their immunity over the course of a year. That's why annual vaccination is recommended for all children over six months old.

News **09/15/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

It's Prostate Cancer Awareness Day in Massachusetts. Both Senator Stephen Brewer of Barre and Representative Stephen Kulik of Worthington are prostate cancer survivors. Together they discussed the difficulty of prostate cancer and the importance of getting checked up. Senator Brewer said seeking medical surgery for his cancer was the scariest experience in his life, but because he sought treatment, he was able to make a full recovery. A Springfield group was at the event to spread awareness to African American men, who are 60% more likely to get prostate cancer and 250% more likely to die from it. Members of the Men of Color Health Awareness group, or MOCHA, want other Springfield men to take a pledge with them if you see them at your local YMCA. The pledge is to live a healthier life so that you may be there for your family and your community.

News **09/29/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Construction workers, miners and food service workers are the occupations that smoke the most. Experts say that may have as much to do with education levels as the jobs themselves. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study found 19.6 percent of working adults smoke, but as many as 30% in the mining, construction and food service industries smoke.

News **09/30/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

More than one hundred criminal indictments have been returned against people and companies accused of defrauding Medicaid. Attorney General Martha Coakley said ten people and three companies are accused of defrauding the state run health insurance program, MassHealth, out of approximately \$10 million dollars. People linked to Adlife Healthcare, Prevention Medicine Associates, Mitchell Counseling Services and Wetterberg Nursing Homes are accused in separate cases of making false claims. In the case of Adlife

Healthcare, which has an office in West Springfield, executive director Sharon Richardson and three of her employees allegedly billed MassHealth about \$5.5 million for services not provided. Coakley said medical fraud hurts everyone in Massachusetts in the form of higher health costs. Coakley said she is aware that unpaid workers and layoffs at Adlife may be consequences related to their fraud allegations, which the Department of Public Health, MassHealth and her office are looking into. The attorney general encourages anyone with information to call one of her office's many hotlines, which tipped them off to their current medical fraud investigation.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 3rd quarter of 2011. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 07/07/11 6am : 30

Bank of America has informed Connecticut officials it will be laying off more than 100 workers in Hartford and East Hartford. According to a spokesperson, Bank of America is eliminating 56 positions at its Hartford Cash Vault site, and transferring those workers to Dedham, Massachusetts, and Schenectady, New York. 50 workers at the East Hartford Lockbox site will also be affected. Those positions will be relocated to Dorchester.

News 07/08/11 12pm : 30

Hiring slowed to a near-standstill last month. Employers added the fewest jobs in nine months and the unemployment rate rose to 9.2 percent. The Labor Department says the economy generated only 18,000 net jobs in June. And the number of jobs added in May was revised down to 25,000. Businesses added the fewest jobs in more than a year. Governments cut 39,000 jobs.

News 07/11/11 11pm : 30

The unemployment line just keeps getting longer, and frustration is building among out of work people here in western Massachusetts. The national unemployment rate is 9.2%, that's the highest it's been all year. In fact, unemployment has topped 8% 29 straight months. That's the longest streak since the great depression. People in western Massachusetts are feeling frustrated. In June, businesses added just 57-thousand jobs the fewest in more than a year, while Government sectors slashed 39 thousand. According to the numbers, the local economy is starting to slow down too. Futureworks Career Center in Springfield saw a 21% decline in the number of employers posting jobs between April and May, which could signal a decrease in employer confidence. High-unemployment has people here in western Massachusetts turning to career centers for help. Most economists blame the slowdown on a still-slumping housing sector and fallout from Europe's debt crisis. With the future uncertain, one thing's for sure it spells a tough road to re-election for President Obama come 2012. The economy typically needs to add 125,000 jobs per month just to keep up with the population growth. And at least twice that many jobs are needed to bring down the unemployment rate.

News 07/20/11 6pm : 30

Baystate Health is laying off close to 170 people. 93% of the layoffs are happening in Springfield. 354 jobs are being eliminated and 169 people are being laid off one month from now. 158 of them are in the Springfield hospital. 185 vacant positions will not be filled. The employees affected will get some sort of severance package. Baystate Health Director of Public Affairs Jane Albert told 22News the lay offs were not based on seniority, rather each position and its function was evaluated. She said the goal, was so these layoffs had the least

impact on their patients. In a statement, Baystate Health President and CEO Mark Tolosky said "The realities of the health care cost containment environment caused us to take additional steps which include reducing the size of our workforce." Baystate senior leaders project that they will lose \$25 million dollars this year and \$54 million dollars next year unless they reduced expenses.

News

07/27/11

6pm

: 30

One industry in Massachusetts is desperate for new applicants. The manufacturing industry wants you to know they're still strong and thriving in the Commonwealth. With the latest unemployment numbers released by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development at 7.8% for the month of June, Massachusetts definitely has job hunters, and the manufacturing industry is hungry for them. The problem is that there is a lack of middle skill workers with the technical know-how to fill these manufacturing jobs. Without the necessary applicant pool, Massachusetts manufacturers risk failing to meet the world-class standard needed to survive the future. Although they have openings and requirements, they have tremendous difficulty filling them with the right set of skills, or people with the right set of skills. To address the problem, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership trained 25 Springfield veterans in the spring, some who were formerly homeless or suffering from addiction but were apt and capable of doing technical work. After a 2-week basic skills course, they were placed in jobs at Smith and Wesson, where they've all been working since. MEP says many more jobs like these exist, but people don't know about them. Rep. Joe Wagner adds there's a misperception that manufacturing is a dying industry in Massachusetts. He adds that vocational schools like one recently built in his district are key to sustaining the manufacturing industry.

News

07/28/11

4:30am

: 30

Six Western Massachusetts retail post offices may be closing. Five of those branches are in the City of Springfield. The Postal Service is losing revenue as more people turn to e-mail and online bill pay. But one Sixteen Acres resident told 22News he's already seen his local substation downsized, and if the Indian Orchard branch is closed, his options will be even fewer and further away.

News

08/04/11

5pm

: 30

A new poll shows Americans are not optimistic about the job market. This is a new reality facing millions of Americans. And according to a recent poll, two-thirds of Americans believe the jobs lost in the recession are unlikely to return. The Labor Department says the number of people seeking for unemployment benefits dipped for the first time in months to 400 thousand. But the director of programs at Career Point told 22news over 150 new jobless claims come into his office every week. This is the first time jobless claims have dropped to 400,000 since April. And although economists say tomorrow's federal employment report will show that employers added 90,000 jobs in July some are still feeling the effects of the recession. The poll also found that those believing the country's days as the most powerful economy are over have risen from 60% to 69%.

News **08/05/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The unemployment dropped slightly in July. The U.S Department of Labor reports the jobless rate fell to 9.1% in July, down from 9.2% in June. Last month, employers added one hundred and seventeen thousand jobs, but nearly 14 million Americans remain out of work.

News **08/08/11** **6pm** **: 30**

A new Kohl's store will be opening in Springfield in September, and the hiring sign is out. A job fair is being held this week to find workers for the new store which will be located on Boston Road in Springfield. A range of positions are available from register operators to freight unloaders. Roughly 130 jobs will need to be filled. And a lot of people are interested.

News **08/09/11** **6pm** **: 30**

The state's largest healthcare union is calling on Baystate Health executives to cancel plans to eliminate 354 jobs later this month. According to a news release from United Healthcare Workers East, the hospital group is set to receive more than 17-million dollars in additional federal funding. The union's vice president says that funding should help protect jobs and patient services. Baystate Health Public Affairs Director Jane Albert told 22News the union has "no connection" to Baystate Health. She also described the 17-million dollar infusion of funds as the federal government "righting a wrong" by returning funds that had been taken away in previous years.

News **08/09/11** **5pm** **: 30**

The unemployment rate is staying pretty steady, and there is projected job growth in health care, internet and computer related and manufacturing in our area. A lot of times, companies may not be adding new positions, but do will fill positions when people leave for other opportunities. Rexene Picard is the Executive Director for the Future Works one stop career center in Springfield. She told 22News, their office has seen a decrease in the amount of unemployed people coming in, and she is noticing more job postings.

News **08/19/11** **5:30pm** **: 30**

More job opportunities will soon be available for physically and developmentally disabled people here in western Massachusetts. Riverside Industries employs more than one hundred disabled men and women at its Easthampton complex. Riverside today began construction of a greenhouse where at least a dozen disabled people will work. Riverside worker Paul Aylward told 22News, people with disabilities thrive in a work environment.

News **09/26/11** **6pm** **: 30**

With the state's unemployment rate at 7.6%, Republican lawmakers are taking a new approach: Getting advice from some of the people who create jobs. The goal of these lawmakers is to unveil a package of job creation policies by the end of the year. These

policies will be built on feedback from businesses in the regions they represent. What keeps a small business from expanding? Is it taxes, regulations, paying out health care or something else? Republican lawmakers in Massachusetts are trying to find a way to help small businesses grow. Some local business owners feel the state needs to provide a clear checklist of its responsibilities so it knows what it's getting into if it decides to expand its workforce. As a business grows, you grow in employees and you don't even know there's no checklist to say you have 10 employees. Here is a soup to nuts, everything the state of Massachusetts requires you to do. There is no such checklist that's handed out when you decide to open up your own business. It's trial by error. 22News talked to a handful of small business owners. Each had different challenges it would like the state to address from it's handling of unemployment requests to keeping wine and beer out of grocery stores. Tedeschi told 22News the uncertainty of state regulations as a business grows, may be the biggest obstacle in the way of expanding. Republican state representatives Nick Boldyga, Don Humason, Todd Smola and state senator Michael Knapik are expected to host this event. It starts in about 20 minutes here on Main Street at the Agawam senior center.

News **09/26/11** **6pm** **: 30**

As the economic situation gets worse, more and more people are taking part time jobs. It's the new way of living for many people in Massachusetts who are unemployed. A new report shows the number of out of work people who are taking part time jobs increased 18-percent since the start of this year. More than 200,000 people have been forced to take a part time job because full time work is just not available; that is four times more people than in 2000. But it might turn out to be a good thing in the long run. Career Point in Holyoke says that people who are looking for a job need to focus more and make sure that they are applying for a job that fits their skill set. You really don't want to try to go across all boards and apply for things that aren't appropriate for you. You want to focus on key strengths and skills.

News **09/27/11** **6pm** **: 30**

Work from home for less money; that's what many people who were surveyed said they'd prefer to do if their employers would let them. It turns out, working from home sounds so appealing, that some would do it for less money. A new survey by Arise Virtual Solutions, a company that provides at home customer service job opportunities, shows 60% of Americans would work from home even if it meant a 25% cut to their paycheck. Even more, 80% said they would like to work from home at least part-time. Commute was the biggest reason people wanted to work from home with 32% saying they would enjoy no commute the most. But a close second, the flexibility of a better work/life balance. Others weren't so keen on the idea of making less just to be home. Interestingly, nearly 4% took it in a different direction, saying they would enjoy staying away from annoying co-workers the most. And, patience might be exactly what you'll need these days to look for a job that will allow you to work from home.

News **09/27/11** **11pm** **: 30**

Republican state lawmakers have launched the "GOP Jobs Tour." And tonight, the "Jobs Tour" stopped at the Agawam Senior Center. Hosted by Westfield State representative Don Humason and Southwick's Nick Boldyga, the tour is dedicated to getting people back to work. They invited small businessmen to reveal the obstacles to job creation. Bob McGovern said the state stopped his 30 year business of welcoming neighbors to communities by forcing his independent contractors to be designated as employees.

News

09/30/11

6pm

: 30

Employees at a senior living center in Springfield say they're getting laid off and aren't being told why. Hampden House employees left work Friday, some with layoff notices in hand, others not on the schedule and unsure about why. Cassandra Haskins says she's worked 20 hours a week at the senior living center for years but hasn't been scheduled for anything the last few weeks. The 22News I-Team went down to see the layoff notices, and while we were there, we saw what appeared to be residents moving out. Dan Clifford, President of the Union representing many Hampden House employees told 22News, since the Spring, they've gone from 40 to only 15 union workers and that the Hampden House has found homes for many of their clients. Hampden House spokesman, Tom Grosebeck, told the 22News I-Team they're not admitting new residents because of the uncertainty for state funds, but wouldn't confirm or deny residents are moving out or the number of layoffs happening. Meantime, these employees are heading to the unemployment line without answers from the center they've worked at for years. While we continue to work for answers on this situation, let us know what you want us to investigate for you e-mail us at iteam@wwlp.com.

News

09/30/11

5:30pm

: 30

Coca-Cola in Northampton just completed an expansion of its plant, one that has created one hundred new jobs. Governor Deval Patrick, lawmakers and Coke employees celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony. This project has attracted more than \$50 million dollars in private investment to Western Massachusetts. Governor Patrick told 22News, in terms of job growth, Massachusetts is 6th in the country.